

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13981 071717Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 SIL-01 LAB-04

PER-01 /102 W

----- 047898

O P 071515Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7188

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13981 071717Z

CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: CALM SEEMS UNREAL TO SKEPTICAL BEIRUTIS

REF: BEIRUT 13908 (6 NOV 75 1510Z)

1. SUMMARY: BEIRUT AND REST OF COUNTRY REMAIN GENERALLY QUIET THROUGH 1400 HOURS (LOCAL) NOV 7 AS CEASEFIRE HOLDING. BUT OBSERVERS FEAR FURTHER MAJOR OUTBREAKS AS CONTENDING FACTIONS KEEP FINGER CLOSE TO TRIGGER. ECONOMY OF CAPITAL REVIVING SLOWLY. AFFAIR OF SHIP UNLOADING ARMS FOR CHRISTIANS AT JOUNIEH NORTH OF BEIRUT IS TODAY'S CAUSE CELEBRE. IT BROUGHT KARAME AGAIN CLOSE TO RESIGNATION YESTERDAY. MARONITE HARD-LINDERS HAVE ISSUED A SECOND MEMORANDUM, THIS ONE DEFENDING 1943 NATIONAL PACT. END SUMMARY.

2. QUITE PREVAILS IN MOYD QUARTERS OF BEIRUT AND THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AS KARAME'S CEASEFIRE STILL HOLDING AS OF 1400 HOURS (LOCAL) NOV 7. ONLY A FEW INCIDENTS REPORTED, NOTABLY LATE REPORT OF SHOOTINGIN NASRA QUARTER OF CENTRAL BEIRU TODAY WHICH SECURITY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO CONTAIN. AT 0900 HOURS (LOCAL) NOV 7, ARMA DETERMINED THAT PHALANGE HAD RELINQUISHED CONTROL OF HOLIDAY INN TO INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. HOTEL'S MANAGEMENT DUE TO RETAKE POSSESSION LATER IN MORNING. LEFTISTS APPEAR TO HAVE DONE SAME TO ISF AT MURR BUILDING.

3. YET MANY OBSERVERS EXPECT MAJOR TROUBLE TO ARISE AT ANNY MOMENT. THIS FEAR BASED ON MEMORY OF DASHED HOPES IN PREVIOUS CEASEFIRES AND ON AWARENESS THAT CONTENDING PWPSES ARE AS SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER AS EVER. ALL FACTIONS KEEPING FINGER CLOSE TO TRIGGER.

4. GENERAL BELIEF THAT LULL MAY BE SHORT HAS PROMPTED HEAVY TRAFFIC IN SOME AREAS AND LONG QUEUES AT BANKS. DISTRIBUTION OF RICE, SUGAR, AND COOKING GAS IS EASING SHORTAGES OF THESE COMMODITIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 13981 071717Z

5. ALTHOUGH BANKS STILL TRYING TO DISCOURAGE EXCHANGE TRANS-ACTIONS LARGER THAN 5,000 LL UNTIL THEY COMPLETE BOOKEEPING BACKLOG, BANK OF AMERICA TOOK LEAD IN SETTING EXCHANGE RATE AT 2.35 LL PER DOLLAR (BUYING) AND 2.45 (SELLING). CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SARKIS ASSURED ECON COUNSELOR THAT BANKS WOULD BE SUPPLIED WITH WHATEVER CASH NECESSARY TO MEET DEMANDS AND THAT HE ESTIMATED BANKS HAD DRAWN 100 MILLION POUNDS TODAY.

6. JOINT MEETING OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND LABOR LEADERS YESTERDAY ASKED NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE TO HASTEN PROGRESS TOWARDS PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY CONDITIONS AND AGREED THAT FIRMS SHOULD NOT DISMISS EMPLOYEES. BUSINESS FIRMS ALSO AGREED TO SECOND ABOUT 150 EMPLOYEES TO HELP PTT DISTRIBUTE BUSINESS AIR MAIL AND REGISTERED MAIL. PTT MINISTER CHAMOUN WELCOMED THIS ASSISTANCE.

7. THE NEWS OF SHIP UNLOADING ARMS FOR CHRISTIANS NEAR JOUNIEH NORTH OF BEIRUT (REFTEL) CREATING CONSIDERABLE TENSION ON POLITICAL SCENE. KATAEB SUCCEEDED IN OFFLOADING ARMS, WHICH NOW REPORTEDLY DISPERSED TO PARTY AND OTHER CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. KARAME YESTERDAY WAS CLOSE TO RESIGNING OVER THE AFFAIR. AN ARMY INSPECTOR HAD INITIALLY TOLD HIM SHIP NOT CARRYING ARMS; THEN ARMY CONTINGENT WHICH SENT ON HIS ORDER TO PREVENT UNLOADING (AFTER HE LEARNED FROM DIFFERENT ARMY SOURCE THERE WERE INDEED ARMS IN CARGO) TURNED BACK BEFORE EXECUTING ORDER. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CONTINGENT'S FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH OPERATION ARE UNCLEAR. ONE VERSION IS THAT CONTINGENT UNABLE TO PROCEED BEYOND KATAEB ROADBLOCK WITHOUT INFLECTING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BECAUSE KATAEB HAD GATHERED CROWD, INCLUDING WOMEN, WHO WERE STAGING SIT-IN ON ROAD. APPARENTLY ARMY CONTINGENT WAS ALSO FIRED UPON, IN ANY CASE, KARAME LATER ISSUED PUBLIC BLAST AT ARMY COMMAND AND, ACCORDING TO PRO-PLO DAILY "AL-MUHARRIR", SPOKE BLUNTLY ON MATTER TO PRES FRANGIE, WHO MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE HAD HAND IN FRUSTRATING KARAME'S ORDERS.

8. KARAME WAS FINALLY PERSUADED LATE YESTERDAY NOT TO RESIGN IN HASTILY CONVENED MEETING OF MOSLEM LEADERS AT MUFTI'S RESIDENCE. EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY TO TAKE HEAT OUT OF ISSUE THROUGH MEDIATION SHIITE IMAM MUSA AS SADR, NAONITE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 13981 071717Z

PATRIARCH KREISH, AND OTHERS. KATAEB MEANWHILE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF ARMS BUT POINTS OUT LEFTISTS AND PALSTINIANS ARE ALSO RECEIVING ARMS FROM OUTSIDE WITHOUT OFFICIAL HINDERANCE. UPSHOT OF AFFAIR IS THAT KARAME MAY CONTENT HIMSELF WITH DEMANDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST ARMY OFFICERS AFTER INVESTIGATION. HE IS IN SOMEWHAT ANOMALOUS POSITION, BECAUSE HE HAS LONG RESISTED OVERT USE OF ARMY AND YET ORDERED IT TO INTERVENE IN THIS CASE. SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO ESCALATE ISSUE, HOWEVER, HE COULD EASILY TURN IT INTO CONFRONTATION AGAINST FRANGIE. ALTHOUGH THIS NOT CURRENTLY FORESEEN, MATTER PROBABLY HINGES ON WHETHER (A) RENEWED FIGHTING AVOIDED; (B) KARAME SUCCEEDS IN GETTING MINIMUM SATISFACTION OF DISCIPLINARY MOVE AGAINST OFFICERS.

9. MARONITE LEAGUE AND MARONITE MONKS HAVE ISSUED A

SECOND HARD-LINING MEMORANDUM (SEE BEIRUT 13134 FOR EARLIER  
DOCUEMENT). IT STRESSES THE VALUE OF 1943 NATIONAL PACT AND  
CRITICIZES ALLEGED MOSLEM DISREGARD OF IT. THE MEMORANDUM  
ALSO ATTACKS THE PALESTINIANS, WHO IT SAYS HAVE "ABUSED THE  
SACRED CAUSE THAT (THEY DEFEND) I ORDER TO MEDDLE IN THE INTER-  
NAL AFFAIRS OF LEBANON".

10. BARRING DRASTIC DOWNTURN IN SECURITY OVER WEEKEND, WE  
INTEND FOREGO NEXT SITREP UNTIL MONDAY, NOV 10.  
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMISTICE, PHYSICAL SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRESS REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, MEETINGS, ARMS SHIPMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT13981  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750388-0006  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751165/aaaacgbi.tel  
**Line Count:** 179  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 13908  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALM SEEMS UNREAL TO SKEPTICAL BEIRUTIS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, LE, (KARAME)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006